



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May 10, 2011

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

HW USA Op-Ed in the Lexington Courier Journal

Norton Healthcare System has become a national leader in healthcare transparency. All facilities should follow their example. As Dr. Arjun Sinrivasan of the CDC stressed: "Tracking infections is key. These findings demonstrate the vital need to continue to monitor drug-resistant bacteria. If we want to stop resistant bacteria in their tracks, we have to know where to begin and how we are doing."

Free for Viewing Until May 20, 2011 <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011304200052>

In Archives:

http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/courier_journal/access/2324537741.html?FMT=ABS&date=Apr+20%2C+2011

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Health Watch USA and 19 other Advocate/Organizations Submit Comment on Accountable Care Organization.

The submitted comment stresses three areas.

- The primary fiduciary responsibility of the physician/nurse should be to the patient not to the ACO.
- Employees responsible for quality assurance and auditing functions should report directly to the Board and not to the facility.
- Over 50% of the composition of ACO Boards should be comprised of individuals who do not have a conflict of interest with the ACO.

View Submitted Letter. <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201105-Documents/ACO-Berwick-11b.pdf>

Helen Haskell HW USA Presentation

Helen Haskell gave a report and an in depth analysis of 1411 medical errors reported to the Empowered Patient Coalition.



Maternal Mortality Rates on the Rise

More woman die in the United States than in 40 other industrialized nations. Last year, the US had a rate below 33 other nations. Now, our maternal mortality rate appears to be rising. <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/world-news-hear-thoughts-maternal-mortality/story?id=10012018>

Vermont Legislature Passes Healthcare Reform

Important components of the Bill include:

- Universal Healthcare.
- Disclosure of Industry gifts.
- Consideration of a No-Fault system for medical malpractice claims.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/bills/Senate/H-202.pdf>

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/742154?sssdmh=dm1.685263&src=nl_newsalert

Most Uninsured Unable to Pay Hospital Bills

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/05/20110510a.html>

2011 HW USA 5th Annual Conference

This year's topic is Healthcare Acquired Infections, although other issues involving transparency or patient advocacy can be presented. The date is Nov. 11, 2011 and is being held at the Embassy Suites.

Initial confirmed speakers are:

- a. John Santa, MD, Director of the Health Ratings Center for Consumer Reports.
- b. Maryn McKenna best selling author of SUPERBUG: The Fatal Menace of

MRSA.

- c. Kathy L. Warye. Vice President, Infections Prevention Becton, Dickinson and Company. Past Chief Executive Officer for the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).
- d. Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Past US Surgeon General
- e. Dr. Marvin Feit. Editor of the Journal of Social Work in Public Health.
- f. Patty Skolnik, Patient Advocate and Founder of "Citizens for Patient Safety"
- g. Helen Gulgun Bukulmez, Juris Doctor, Presentation on the Full Disclosure of the Medical Errors by HealthCare Providers and the Legal Consequences of Such Disclosure.
- h. Representative Tom Burch, Chairman of the Kentucky House Health and Welfare Cmt.

We also have exhibits which are FREE for non-profits who provide two registrations. The cost for attendance is \$50 and \$25 for students.

The conference's website can be viewed at www.healthconference.org.

As with previous years' conferences, CME credits are planned to be available for RNs, MDs, JDs, Social Workers and Human Resource Managers.

If you would like to give a 25 minute presentation at the conference, please submit a 300 word abstract for consideration to contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org

HW USA Meeting May 18th

Rosemary Gibson - Best Selling Author of "the Wall of Silence" and "The Treatment Trap"

To attend contact Kevin T Kavanagh, MD
606-875-3642 or email: kavanagh.ent@gmail.com

